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Senate

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who is, and was, and is to come, before whose face the generations rise and fall, give us that reverential awe which forms the root of wisdom. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us, for we wait on You. Lord, give us courage to listen to You and to receive strength from Your presence.

Stand by our Senators today, sustaining them in their going out and coming in. You have not failed them in the past, so we trust You with the future. May their love for You ripen as they lean upon Your strength.

Protect our military men and women from dangers seen and unseen. Remind us that You are the sole source of peace and righteousness.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at the request of the majority leader, I have been asked to announce that this afternoon there will be a period of morning business until 2 p.m. It had been the majority leader's hope, and the desire

of many Members on this side of the aisle, to begin consideration of the Healthy Forests issue during today's session. Unfortunately, there is an objection on the Democratic side of the aisle.

Given that objection, it had been the intent of the leader to begin consideration of the class action fairness legislation. Again, there was an objection to proceeding to that measure on Friday; and, therefore, a motion to proceed was made by the majority leader.

Today, at 2 p.m., the Senate will resume debate on the motion to proceed to the class action bill. Members are expected to come to the floor throughout the day to speak on this motion. If we are unable to proceed on the bill today, it may be necessary to file a cloture motion on that pending motion to proceed.

Under a previous order, at 5:15 today, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Margaret Catharine Rodgers to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Florida. This will be the first vote of today's session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1904

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the minority leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests bill, under the following limitations: that the following first-degree amendments be the only amendments in order, and that any listed first-degree amendments be subject to second-degree amendments which must be relevant to the first degree to which offered: managers' amendment; Leahy-Boxer, buyback provisions; Bingaman-Leahy-Boxer, appeals process; Bingaman-Leahy-Boxer, wildland-urban interface; Bingaman-Leahy-Boxer, NEPA; Boxer-Leahy-Cantwell-Murray, additional

area exclusion; Campbell-Inouye, tribal lands and hazardous fuels; Collins-Snowe, suburban sprawl; Kyl, wildfire research institutes; Kyl, wildland-urban interface; Leahy-Boxer judicial review; Smith, land grant universities; and Ensign, animals.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of these amendments, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, this is bringing a bill up that has some problems in that this matter has not gone before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, at least as far as Senator BINGAMAN is concerned. I have spoken to him on a couple of occasions, and he has not been given any degree of consideration as to what this final piece of legislation is that is now coming before the Senate.

Additionally, a bill such as this should be brought to the Senate floor and debated like all bills are debated. I do not have a position on this piece of legislation at this time. Personally, I have not read it. I do not know if it is good or bad. But, for the reasons I have announced, in addition to the fact that a number of Senators on this side have some problems, I object.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The acting leader is recognized.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on July 24, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry reported to the Senate H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

This bill reflects a comprehensive effort to improve forest health on both public and private lands. The bill provides Federal land managers the tools

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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